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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) A letter was received by the Chief Minister from the Prime Minister.

" (*b*) It will not be in the public interest to disclose the information as it is of a confidential nature."

* 93 *Q.*—SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the State Government were consulted by the Central Government regarding the proposed amendment to Article 31 of the Constitution ; and

(*b*) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to place their recommendations on the Table of the House?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) A letter was received by the Chief Minister from the Prime Minister.

" (*b*) Government are not in a position to disclose the information, as it is of a confidential nature."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" May I know whether the Government's opinion was communicated both to the Central Government and to the General Secretary of the All-India Congress Committee?" 11-20 a.m.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" As far as the General Secretary of the All-India Congress Committee is concerned, the Chief Minister wrote in his personal capacity. As far as the Prime Minister's communication is concerned, the Government have sent their reply."

SRI M. PALANIYANDI :—" அரசியல் சட்டத்தைத் திருத்த வேண்டிய முக்கியமான பிரச்னையைப்பற்றி நமது அரசாங்கம் மத்திய அரசாங்கத்திற்கு யோசனே கூறியிருப்பதன் காரணமாக இந்தச் சட்ட சபைக்கும் ஒரு மதிப்புக் கொடுத்து சட்டசபை அங்கத்தினர்களின் யோசனையையும் அது விஷயத்தில் கேட்டு அதை மத்திய அரசாங்கத்திற்கு அனுப்ப சர்க்கார் முன் வருமா ? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" That is quite a different matter altogether."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Is there any basis for the charge made on the floor of the Lok Sabha by the Hon. Minister for Commerce and Industry of the Government of India that the Madras Government have failed to reply to certain matters asked for from them by the Central Government relating to changes in the Constitution? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" That is not with reference to the changes proposed in the Constitution which were referred to in questions 91, 92 and 93. It is with reference to the changes in the Constitution regarding the list of essential articles. We were asked to send a reply within three days. We said that that was an important matter and that we could not be hustled in a matter like that to send the information within the said time-limit."

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MR. SPEAKER :—" I want to inform hon. Members that I have placed before the House to-day answers to 35 questions. In twenty minutes we have covered only five questions."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" I think we devote a lot of time to unimportant questions with the result that we do not have sufficient time to cover important questions."

MR. SPEAKER :—" From the hon. Member's point of view, they may be unimportant. But from the point of view of other hon. Members, they are important."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Is Malabar so important, Sir." (Laughter.)

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" May I know under what Constitution, rule or law the Government claim the privilege of non-disclosure of this document? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" It is for the Government to claim privilege in matters which they think it will not be in the public interest to disclose. It is purely left to the discretion of Government."

SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR :—" At least will the Hon. Minister give the nature of the proposed amendments to the Constitution? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The hon. Member will know it when the Bill comes before the Lok Sabha."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" Was any reply sent to Government of India later on? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Is it with reference to the question of Sri Balakrishnan, viz., regarding the changes in the Constitution with reference to essential articles? "

DR. K. B. MENON :—" Yes."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Yes, we have subsequently sent our reply."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM :—" சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, நம் ராஜ்ய முதல் மந்திரி இந்திய சர்க்காரின் பிரதம மந்திரிக்கு எழுதிய கடிதம் இந்தச் சர்க்காருக்கும், மத்திய சர்க்காருக்கும் இடையே நடந்த கடிதப் போக்குவரத்து என்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். அதை இந்தச் சட்ட சபைக்குத் தெரிவிப்பதால் என்ன ஆபத்து வருமென்று எனக்குத் தெரியவில்லை. அதோடு இந்த ராஜ்ய முதல் மந்திரி தனிப்பட்ட முறையில் அகில இந்திய காங்கிரஸ் கமிட்டிக்கு இதைப்பற்றி எழுதியுள்ளதாகக் கூறுகிறார். இந்த ராஜ்ய முதல் மந்திரியாக உள்ள ஒருவர் அகில இந்திய காங்கிரஸ் கமிட்டிக்குத் தெரிவிக்கக்கூடிய விஷயத்தை இந்த ராஜ்யப் பொது மக்களுக்கும் தெரிவிப்பதால் என்ன ஆபத்து வருமென்று நான் கேட்கிறேன்."

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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" It is purely getting information from the Chief Minister in his personal capacity. He must be prepared to disclose the reply he had sent to the Secretary, All-India Congress Committee, in his personal capacity. It is not an official matter."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" I want to know whether the reply sent by the Government to the Central Government is different from the one that the Chief Minister sent in his personal capacity to the Secretary, All-India Congress Committee."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I have not seen the reply sent by the Chief Minister to the General Secretary, All-India Congress Committee, in his personal capacity. I know only the reply sent by this Government to the Government of India." (Laughter.)

Collection of contributions from villagers for the Community Project works.

* 94 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the progress of work connected with Community Projects is very slow in the State on account of the fact that the villagers are not contributing the share of 50 per cent of the cost;

(*b*) if so, the alternative schemes suggested by the Government to carry on the Community Project works steadily and quickly; and

(*c*) the measures taken by the District Collectors to persuade the villagers to contribute equal shares for Community Project works?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) & (*b*) Slow progress of work in some of the projects is partly due to the difficulty in collecting contributions. As, however, the Community Project is a people's project and their participation is essential, there can be no alternative to it and works will be executed only where the villagers come forward with their share.

" (*c*) The Collectors are persuading the people to make contributions by propaganda through the project personnel and other departmental officials and non-official agencies."

SRI A. RATNAM :—" தலைவர் அவர்களே, சமுதாய நல அபிவிருத்தித் திட்டத்தின் கீழ் செலவாகும் பணத்தில் ஒரு பகுதியை அந்தந்த கிராம மக்கள் கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் சொல்லுகிறார். அந்த மாதிரியாக ஒரு பகுதி பணத்தைத் தாழ்த்தப்பட்ட மக்கள் கொடுக்க முடியாததின் காரணமாக இந்த சமுதாய நல அபிவிருத்தித் திட்டங்களால் அவர்களுக்கு எந்த விதமான நன்மையும் கிடையாது என்பது வாஸ்தவமா ? "